THE COCHIN CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: Sir, I move for leave to introduce the Cochin Child Marriage Restraint Act (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellai)*: I second it.

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Women)*: I oppose it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: I think the Hon'ble lady member has to give a statement for her objecting the motion. She has to make a speech and then I have to give a statement. That is what happened when Mr. Bhaskara Menon's Bill was taken.

Deputy President: You cannot compel others to speak.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam)*: There has been a precedent like that when Mr. Bhaskara Menon's Bill came up in this Council. When Mr. Bhaskara Menon moved a motion like this regarding his Bill, the lady member gave a speech opposing the motion and Mr. Bhaskara Menon gave a reply.

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Women)*: It is only at the time of introduction that a speech will be made.

Motion put and carried

THE COCHIN MUNICIPAL ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Sir, I move for leave to introduce the Cochin Municipal Act (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: I second it.

Motion put and carried

RESOLUTIONS

1. Cancelling the Rule requiring payment from rich men for the treatment in Government Hospitals

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Sir, I rise to move the following resolution which stands in my name.—"*This Council recommends to the Government of Cochin that they may be pleased to cancel the Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Cochin No. 127, Order D.6-9404/14, dated 1st November 1940, regarding the levy of fees in the Government Medical Institutions in Cochin State.*"

I have very great pleasure in moving this resolution, the more so because I missed the chance of moving this as a cut motion when the demand for medicine was placed before the Council. Had I made that motion then, I would have been in a delicate position of cutting the Budget of that Department by one rupee. I am, therefore, pleased that without affecting the coffers of the Medical Department budget, this resolution may be moved now and we are not putting any censure upon the Department. Sir, this levy of fees in the Cochin State has been, I am afraid, based upon a mistaken idea. The idea underlying it was that the rich people should pay fees for operations and for being in the hospital and the poor people must be treated free. Look at the analogy underlying the idea. The hospital is maintained with money. The poor people in the land do not contribute that money. The tax-payers alone contribute money and those who have more money, pay more tax and those at whose cost the hospitals are being run some times happen to go there; and when they go thereto an institution which is run by their own money,—they are asked again to pay. So, what I say is, it is really the tax-payer who is supporting the institution and not the very poor people. The very poor people of course pay indirectly by way of tobacco, etc. Apart from that, they do not pay anything. Now to penalise, the rich again is indeed very hard. I say there is much injustice in this levy. Take for instance the case of Government servants. Those Government servants who are in receipt of a pay of Rs. 50 or more have to pay this fees. As far as the Government servants are concerned they cannot escape from this rule. In other cases what happens is, that when people with some means come to the hospitals, they take away nice clothes, keep them in the rickshaw and put the rickshawman's dress, so that, when the authorities in the hospital ask what the income is, they say it is somewhere near Rs. 30 and there is no possibility of the hospital people making any income from them. What I say is, those people who are bound to pay escape from this rule and they go scot free. I shall give you one example from my practical experience. There was a lady doctor in Cochin who used to get something like Rs. 100 and her son had to be operated. If she had to resort to the hospital she would have had to pay 75 or 100 rupees and above all this she has to keep her son in the hospital for ten or twelve days, and she will have to pay charges for that also. She approached a doctor and requested him to come to her house and had the operation conducted. That means

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